DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

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TEMPLES NEAR THE SUMMIT OF THE SACRED MOUNTAIN, TAI SHAN, IN THE VICINITY OF KIAOCHOW

Sacred places abound in Shantung, the province of China in which Kiaochow is situated. Many of these spots are revered because of associations with Confucius who is buried in the province. Others, like Tai Shan, were sacred before the time of Confucius but gained added holiness from him

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Hungary: Humbled and Isolated

HUNGARY, cut practically to half its former size by the Treaty of Versailles, and now disassociated from Austria and having no alliance with other neighbors, is peopled by a race unusual in many ways, according to the following communication to the National Geographic Society by C. Townley-Fullam:

"Pastoral Hungary has features all its own. It stretches across the vistas of the Great Plain in the region of the Hortobágy. There is the genuine original Magyar, the Centaur-Mazeppa, who, like his sires of old, that rushed Alexander on the plains of Sogdiana, rides like a devil of the twilight; eats, drinks, sleeps on his small, tireless charger, and chokes with pure delight in lust of life and rush of wind. The long white 'gatya'—no penitent sheet—the embroidered sleeveless waistcoat, the plumed or be-ribboned hat, the gorgeous mantle, the deep-bowled pipe, mark this tanned Bacchanalian cavalier more surely than does the anthropologist. He cultivates no circus trick, but he and his horse are Freemasons in one craft.

"There is nothing spectacular in this man's work nor annals. His blood-brother, the shepherd of the night, sustains himself on sheep cheese and milk, and in his lonely vigils could still do service to astronomy. The Queensland squatter has no such run as the shepherd of the plain, whose vistas are wide, illimitable, and peaceful.

Hungary's History a Test of Endurance

"What may be the psychological keynote of a pastoral and peasant people, shepherd kings, whose whole corporate national life has been one long test of endurance that in the end has tired out Turk, Teuton, Slav, and even Destiny herself? A musical, wine-loving, hospitable race; warm, generous, and combative; proud and vain; dowered with the curse of Reuben, with a total incapacity to unite on great issues and the power to fight on any soil but its own.

"Imagine this people, its gods still the bards of the victor's camp, cut off from all the world we know by its Turanian tongue, whose beauty chained the admiration of Cardinal Mezzofanti (who is said to have spoken 58 languages), but maintaining its own as a minority by sheer force of character in that strange pentecostal mosaic of race, creed, and caste which until recently held the Danube and the Central Plain as Austria-Hungary.

"Imagine a virile stock which can still sit and think, can fall into gleaming frenzy as its harp or picture-poet storms a delicate imagination with breathless deed; a race which combines the Buddhist aversion from action with the Celtic instinct of opposition; improvident, lavish, naively charmed at the courtesy of the stranger; simple, with the barbarian lust of pleasure to the eye; sensitive to its inmost chords to gentleness—a passionate, dreamy race of fatalists; the true Asian mystery."

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HUNGARIAN COWBOYS AT LEISURE

It will be seen that their costumes are very different from those worn in the American "cow country." A striking feature of the overcoat worn by the boy on the right is that the sleeves are never used, the coat being placed loosely over the shoulders and fastened in front by a short leather strap. The large sailor collar, arms, and sides of the coat are ornamented with designs in colored wools

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Morocco: Where Banditry is a Profession

THE United States has had diplomatic difficulties in recent years with the people of northern Morocco where Spanish armies have just scored their greatest success in sustaining the colonial power of Spain in Africa. Some insight into the kind of people with whom the Spaniards have had to deal is contained in the following communication to the National Geographic Society, concerning Raisuli, "the Villa of Morocco," whose raids caused political crises in Spain.

"He could not bear to hear a child cry, while on several occasions I noticed his care even to avoid allowing the bees collected on his cup to drown," is the surprising statement, not of a friend, but of the wealthy American who was held for ransom by Raisuli in 1904, until President Roosevelt sent a fleet of warships and his famous ultimatum, 'Perdicaris alive or Raisuli dead,' to Morocco.

Like Head of Old Time Highland Clan

"In many respects the man interested and attracted me in spite of all my natural motives for dislike," continues the writer, Ion Perdicaris. "Raisuli was at once so gracious and dignified, not to us only, but to his own wild adherents, who evidently idolized their chieftain, whose position among them seemed that of the head of a Highland clan in the olden times.

"He was quick to see the humorous aspect of a situation, while his repartee was as immediate and to the point as though he had been born in County Galway itself. In fact, I discovered to my consternation that I was beginning to like the man in spite of my natural resentment. I found myself unconsciously accepting his contention that he was not a mere brigand or cattle-lifter, but a patriot struggling to rescue his Berber followers from the tyranny of the corrupt Chereefian officials. His charm of voice, the natural poise and dignity of his manner, his self-control under provocation, all betrayed a superior character. He is in fact a born leader and with a certain statesmanlike quality. He deplored the condition of his country, the feuds which separate the tribes, the many deeds of violence, and the blood so uselessly shed.

"In fact, this strange experience while in camp with Raisuli at Tsarradan began to assume an aspect of unexpected and idyllic charm. The life of the natives; the little touches of more gentle human character; the tiny child who offered me fruit, which I at first declined, until I noticed the expression of disappointment and mortification upon the boy's face, and then the radiant and almost ridiculous satisfaction of the little fellow when I pretended to enjoy his half-ripe offering; the many attempts of the wild people about me to propitiate me; their curiosity as to our own manners and customs, as when one venerable inhabitant of the village led me gently aside to inquire why we walked so energetically up and down the village green. 'For

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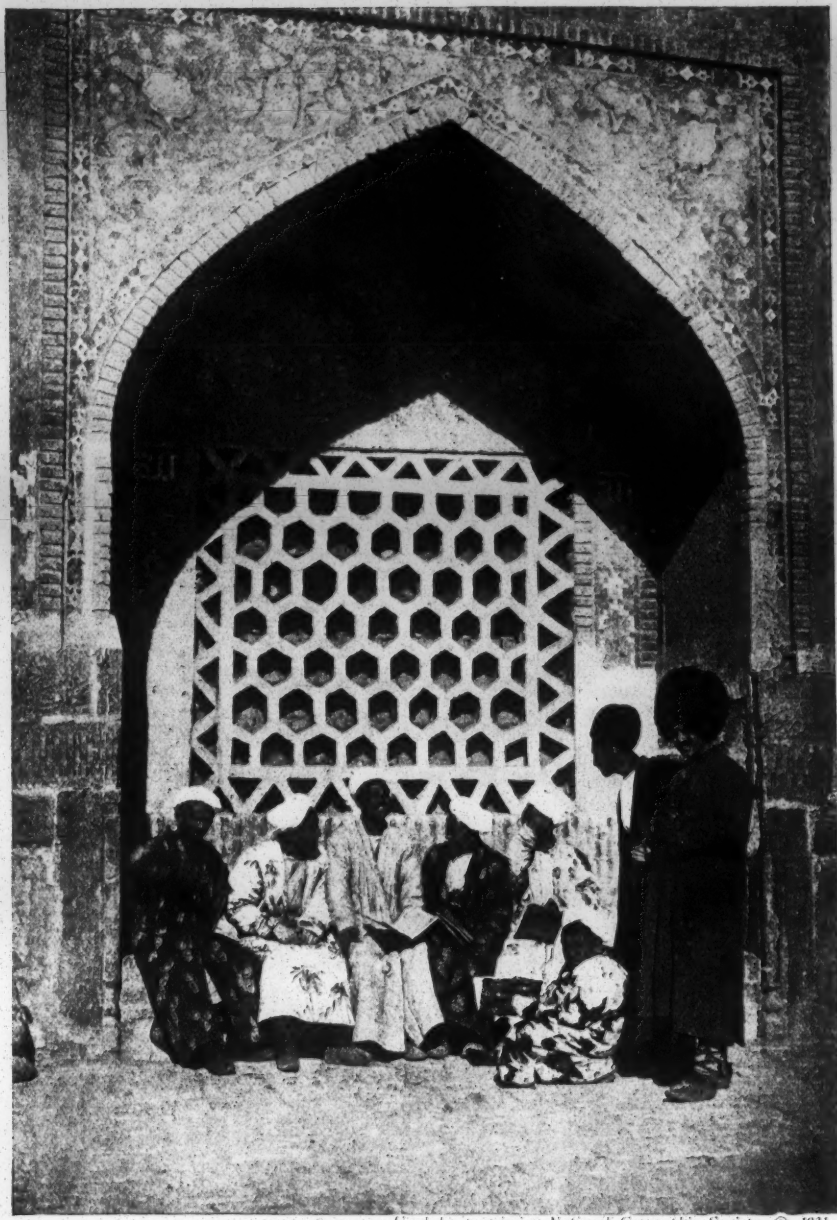

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A GLIMPSE OF BOKHARA ARCHITECTURE

Framed in the arch are a group of Mohammedan theologues studying the writings of the Prophet

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Kiaochow: The Fiume of China

KIAOCHOW, China, was seized by Germany in 1897 and captured by the Japanese when the latter entered the World War in 1914. Its permanent disposition has been the subject of wide discussion, especially in the United States, because of our historic friendship with both China and Japan. Now dispatches state that a Japanese representative at the first meeting of the League of Nations announced that his country is ready to prepare for the transfer of this territory back to China.

Following the murder of two German missionaries in 1897, Germany employed her retaliatory seizure of Kiaochow as a means of obtaining an indemnity and a 99-year lease on Tsingtau and the bay of Kiaochow. She gave the name of Kiaochow to the entire German concession, which is not to be confused with the nearby city of the same name. The concession includes the German-built city of Tsingtau, outlying towns, and the bay, which has a narrow outlet into the Yellow Sea on the west coast of the province of Shantung.

Tsingtau illustrates aptly Germany's pre-war methods of getting a foreign foothold in anticipation of her dream of world domination. The setting of this effort lay in a province conspicuous in Chinese history for 4,000 years, and revealing traces of pre-Chinese inhabitants. For Shantung was the birthplace and teaching field both of Confucius and Mencius. There also the Boxer movement first was directed against foreigners.

Made Hills Bristle With Krupp Guns

But the harbor of Kiaochow, apparently, interested the Germans more than history. It is considered one of the best along the Chinese coast, and to have a stronger natural defense than Port Arthur.

Back of the city rise hills as high as 1000 feet and a range 600 feet high dominates the harbor. This range was utilized by the Germans for forts where they mounted powerful Krupp guns, commanding every point of land and sea approach. When the Germans completed their defenses, Tsingtau was considered one of the most strongly fortified ports on the globe.

All this protection was not to be afforded a fishing village and a none too busy harbor. Natives were persuaded to move, and the lessors built a typical German city on the site of Tsingtau. They also renamed this city, calling it Ching-tao, but the older name clung to it.

Streets were laid out, and given German names. German banks, German industries, including breweries, and German hotels were established. No other postoffice than the German one was permitted to handle foreign mail.

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health's sake,' was my reply. 'Indeed?' said the old Mohammedan, 'and may I ask how many such daily turns, up and down, it may require to keep a Christian in good health'—all afforded matter for interest and reflection.

"While standing near Raisuli one day on the village green, of which we were now allowed the freedom, one of his followers came up from Tangier, almost breathless from his haste, to report the arrival of the two American squadrons. The man described how the eight frigates had entered the bay, one after another. He told of the anxious deliberations of the Moorish authorities and of the alarm of the native inhabitants.

"I watched Raisuli with anxiety, lest apprehending the landing of marines, with a view to our relief and his own capture, he might endeavor to drag us to some more distant and inaccessible retreat. What was then my surprise when looking up with a bright smile, he said, 'Well, I think I can now congratulate you.'

"'I do not understand you,' I replied.

"'I mean,' answered Raisuli, 'that the presence of these vessels will lead the authorities at Tangier to make such representations to the Sultan as may result in his acceding to my demands, and then you will be able to return to your friends.'

What to do With Money Big Problem

"Raisuli was confronted by the problem as to what disposition he was to make of the seventy thousand silver Spanish dollars which he demanded for our release. Here at Tsarradan there were no iron safes, nor so much as a house with a cellar, while the thatch of skaff, or dried reeds, the only roofing of the houses, offered but poor security should he leave so much coin stored in a village where he himself was but a transient sojourner.

"To the great amusement of Mulai Ali, and to my own considerable astonishment, the solution of this troublesome question which Raisuli proposed was that 'La Senora,' as the natives called my wife, should receive the seventy thousand dollars from Torres and deposit the money to her own credit in Tangier at the bank where we were accustomed to cash our checks, and that he Raisuli, might then draw upon Mrs. Perdicaris as occasion should require.

"I, however, entirely declined to request my wife to accede to this singular proposal, and when I explained to Raisuli the suspicions to which such an arrangement might expose us, he at once said that he would be the last to wish to place us in such a position.

"The next morning it was still dark when our men began loading the pack mules, and we reached the crest of the mountain, which lay between us and Tangier, just as the sun rose. Never have I anywhere witnessed a scene of more wild and fantastic charm. A slight mist hung about the base of the rocks, whose peaks and turrets were now flecked with crimson or lilac, now shaded with purple, by some passing cloud.

Mules Loaded With Silver Dollars

"At last the mules bearing the silver dollars, carefully packed in boxes, arrived and the bullion was counted.

"I was summoned by Raisuli.

"'The silver,' he said, 'has been counted—twenty thousand dollars, as stipulated, in Spanish dollars; but these letters,' showing me as he spoke a check book containing certified checks on the Comptoir d'Escompte, the French bank at Tangier, 'of the value of these, which are supposed to represent fifty thousand dollars, I know nothing. However, I will accept them on your personal guarantee, but on that condition only.'

"When I had examined the checks I gave the required assurance verbally, and Raisuli, leading me to the door, where I found my horse waiting for me, bade me adieu, saying that he had learned to look upon me as a friend, and that he hoped I cherished no ill feeling on account of my detention."

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Bokhara: Strategic Center of the Trans-Caspian Region

REPORTED nervousness on the part of the Bolshevik leaders at a growing restiveness under Soviet institutions in the region of the Caucasus, raises the question whether similar conditions may not be present in Bokhara, just across the Caspian Sea, where plots and counter-plots have followed one another bewilderingly during the last few years.

Bokhara, dusty and tawny in tone, is nevertheless a colorful city because of the striking costumes of the male inhabitants. The women, clad in somber tones and hiding their faces behind horsehair veils which resemble window screening, avail themselves of a protective coloration which enables them to move like shadows about the ancient city. But the Bokhara male, be he Usbeg, Sart, Persian or Tajik, utilizes all the colors and tints of the solar spectrum in his costume.

Bokhara is an important religious center. It has 364 mosques. With a practically unknown railway running south to the Afghan frontier, its location in the midst of Central Asia gives it a strategic importance that is little appreciated.

Government Tore Up Rails

The khanate of Bokhara has an area about equal to that of Utah, but with four times the population. Since the outbreak of the war, its fortunes have varied. Part of the time it has been an independent khanate, showing its prerogative by taking up the rails of the Trans-Caspian Railway which passed through its territory. Several times it has been under the control of the Bolshevik forces. The Amir at one time had a picturesque army of about 11,000 soldiers, many of whom carelessly lounged along the stone passageway which leads up to the Ark, or castle.

On this incline, in front of the royal residence, formerly there was enacted every Friday morning a ceremony impressive in its dignity and dazzling in its color effects. Hundreds of solemn mullahs, clad in bright silk robes of stick candy stripes or gorgeous golden suns on purple fields, belted with silver, and with buckles as large as salad plates, gathered here in impressive rows, each with a priceless prayer rug beneath his feet.

These were not the dashing types which once made Mohammedanism a power from Mecca to Gibraltar, but the ceremonialists whose religion is a thing of dignity and prosperity, founded on trade rather than a life in the saddle. In unison they bow low so that only broad backs can be seen, but a moment later all are erect with their spotless white turbans the most prominent feature in a scene so colorful that only an Oriental sun could harmonize it.

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German Military Dreamers Hoped to Conquer China

Germany obtained not only indemnities and the 193 square miles and bay described, but mining and railway concessions. Shantung has fertile, well-cultivated lands, coal fields, deposits of iron, gold and other metals, and small diamonds are found. A railway was built to Chinanfu, connecting with important inland lines.

Perhaps these commercial advantages were incidental. Said Theodor Springman in *Deutschland und der Orient*: "With the help of Turkey, India and China may be conquered. Having conquered these, Germany should civilize and Germanize the world, and the German language would become a world language."

Anyway Germany was reluctant to relinquish her holdings. Japan bombarded Tsingtau for more than two months, from land and sea, and not until the fortifications were practically demolished did the garrison capitulate, November 7, 1914.

Farther back in Shantung, a descriptive name meaning "Eastern Hills," is Mount Tashan, most revered of the five sacred mountains of the old empire, rising to a height of 5,100 feet. Born at Kinfau, near there, Confucius is said to have tried to reach its top in vain, and a temple stands now where he is thought to have halted. Kinfau, after 2,500 years, is populated largely by Confucius' direct descendants, thousands of whom bear his name, but none of whom ever attained a place of prominence in Chinese history.

A MOROCCAN REPAST

"Bah!" say the Arabs. "We don't stick into our mouths tools that but yesterday were in the mouth of some one else. We put our own hands in our own mouths"

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Honduras: Land of Rivers and Big Debt

HONDURAS, least developed of the five Latin-American countries which were reported considering the formation of a "United States of Central America," is a country of hills and valleys; of rain and sunshine; of large and small rivers.

A half-dozen rivers may be crossed on one day, and, while they are usually narrow and shallow, a few hours' rain will turn them into roaring torrents, absolutely impassable. The writer has been held up for five days by a stream that when he first crossed it was less than three feet in depth. When he wanted to cross the second time, a few weeks later, it had been raining, and even the natives remained on whichever side they chanced to be until it went down again.

Honduras is said to be the most backward of all the Central American republics, and she will remain so until railroads cross the country and the government becomes stable. Then there will be great opportunities here for many, and Americans and American capital will always be welcome.

Debt Close to World's Record

The country is just a little larger than the State of Pennsylvania, yet it has a population of only a little more than half a million. It has the largest per capita debt of any country on the face of the globe except New Zealand--at least it had before the World War upset all statistical conditions. It owes $220 per capita. Most of this debt was created by loan-shark methods, however, for Honduras would agree to pay $10 to get one—or some such ridiculous proportion.

The name of the country is said to be derived from a Spanish term meaning "depth," the early explorers having found difficulty in striking water shallow enough for anchorage. They were so delighted when they reached the Nicaraguan shore nearby that they called the headland "Cape Gracias a Dios" (Cape Thanks to God), a name it still holds.

Guests Bring Own Beds

As a rule, the night will be spent in a native house, sometimes little more than a hut, built of mud, thatched or roofed with tiles. One is apparently always welcome to the best the house affords; but a hammock as part of the traveler's outfit is a necessity, for the beds of stretched bullhide or canvas are usually fully occupied, if not by those at whose home you are a guest, then by other residents greatly to be feared.

Everybody sleeps in one room—men, women, and children together. Your hosts are curious, but politely so, watching you undress and get into your hammock, with a calm stare that must not be considered impertinent, for a white man is not an every-day visitor. The writer rarely undressed completely. Sometimes he would only take off hat, coat, and boots; sometimes only his hat, for sleeping in one's clothes becomes second nature after awhile, and bathing and changes of linen can be better indulged in along the roadside.

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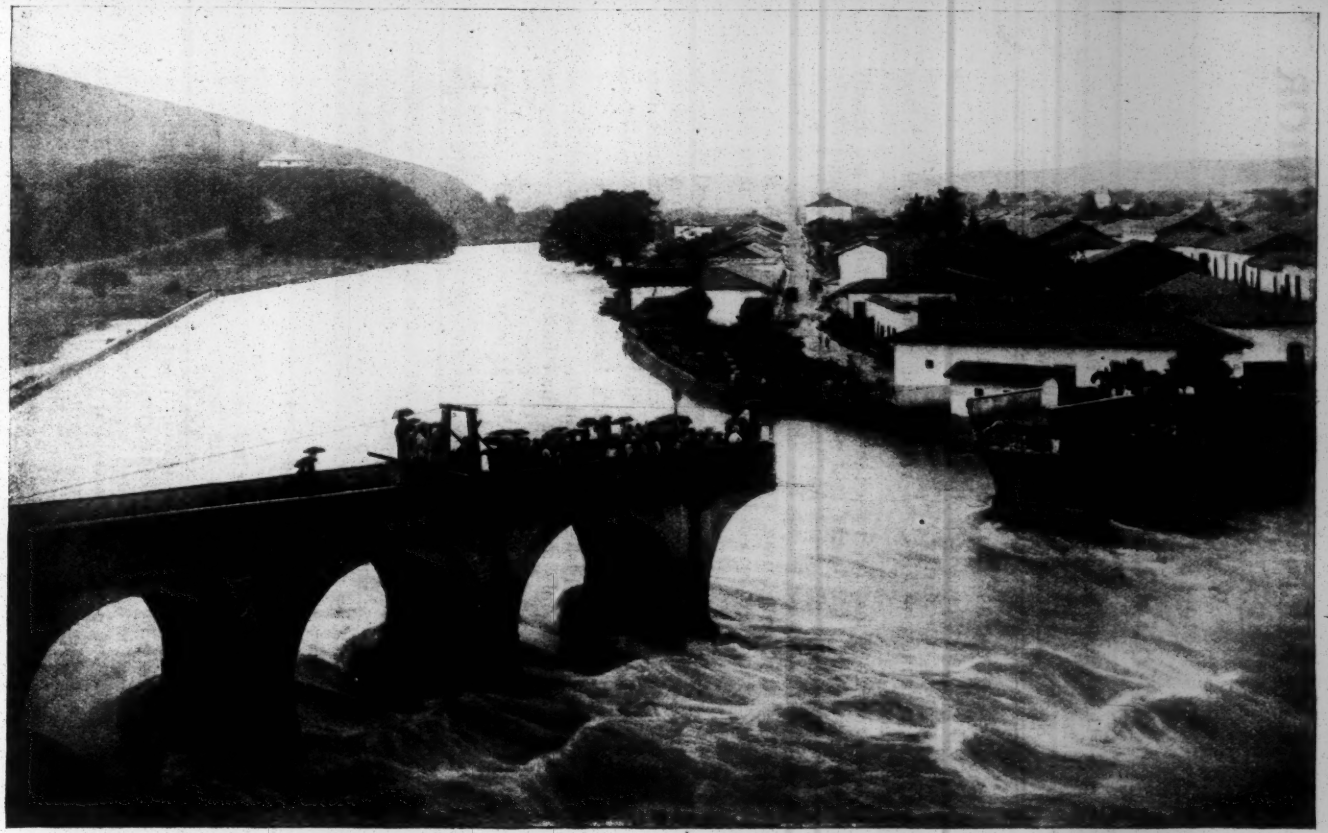
Camels Compete With Railways

Bokhara is architecturally unimpressive, but nowhere are there more attractive Oriental bazaars. Brass smiths vie with goldsmiths to add the glint of glowing metal to the half light of the covered *souks* and there the makers of peculiar Bokhara caps display their brightly colored wares, the edges glistening with soft furs from Siberia.

In spite of the branch railway which runs from Old Bokhara with its mud walls to Kagan, or New Bokhara on the Central Asian line, much of the traffic in the dusty city of the Usbegs still is borne on the backs of lazy-footed, philosophic camels, calmly chewing away in spite of the political changes which mean little in their nomad lives.

Bokhara has given its name to one of the loveliest of rugs, but these creations of the Turkoman looms are really produced farther west and their main market is Merv, whence another railway crawls south to Kushka beyond the northern frontier of Afghanistan. The Bokhara-Termez and Merv-Kushka railways are much more important in the present scheme of things in Central Asia than the lazy life of the Moslem city of Bokhara, where fat mullahs drone out ceremonial prayers in the Registan, or public square. Bokhara is second only to Baku, across the Caspian, as a Pan-Turanian center, and statesmen around the world are wondering what political plots are being hatched beside its stagnant pools and in its shadowy bazaars.



A VIEW OF TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

This picture shows the seething waters of a mountain torrent in freshet season just after a section of the principal highway bridge of the capital city has been swept away. Such a mishap is a calamity in Tegucigalpa, for unlike any other capital city in North or South America, its only means of communication with the seaboard is over wagon roads